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Emergency appeal operation update Viet Nam: Mekong Delta floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRVN009
GLIDE n° FL-2011-000137-VNM
Operation update n°1
9 February 2012

Period covered by this Operations Update:
19 October to 31 December 2011

Appeal target (current): CHF 1,107,185

Appeal coverage: 102%

[<click to go directly to the updated donor response report or attached financial report>](#)

Appeal history:

- 9 November 2011: This emergency appeal was launched for CHF 1,107,185 to assist 10,000 households (42,000 beneficiaries) for 12 months.
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 210,710 was allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the national society in its initial response.

Summary:

The provision of clean water thanks to the Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) water treatment unit has been completed in a timely manner. Some 800 households in four affected remote communes in Tan Chau district (An Giang province) received clean water from 24 to 28 October 2011. The VNRC national disaster response team (NDRT) along with local Red Cross volunteers installed and operated the unit.

The distribution of household kits to 1,500 families was completed by 11 November in accordance with the initial plan. This timely and effective distribution was possible due to the availability of VNRC disaster preparedness stock in Hanoi. The pre-positioned stock was released as soon as the flooding in the Mekong area reached a state of emergency.

Disease prevention and health promotion activities are ongoing and will be completed by 15 January 2012. In order to reach 10,000 families, 180 volunteers in 18 communes in the three provinces received training (24-30 November) on knowledge of prevention of dengue fever (DF), hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD), and on communication skills to transfer that knowledge to communities.

However, most of November and December was spent on planning a full VNRC floods operation funded from various sources such as IFRC emergency funding, European partner national societies/DG ECHO, German Red



Viet Nam Red Cross staff and volunteers distributing household kits, containing basic household items, in Chau Phong commune, Tan Chau district, An Giang province. Photo: An Giang Red Cross chapter

Cross and its own fundraising. In November, the IFRC country office, with support from the Asia Pacific zone resource mobilization team raised funds for the Federation emergency appeal, an effort that was largely successful and allowed for improved planning. Next, in December, a further joint assessment by VNRC, IFRC and partner national societies (French Red Cross, German Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross) was carried out from 11 to 17 December to verify and update the needs and target communes, including a detailed joint planning to avoid overlapping of activities with internal and external stakeholders.

There has been revision of distribution plans for cash, tarpaulins and water containers under this appeal to allow for coordination with partner national societies in order to make the programme-based approach possible. This approach will ensure that activities complement each other better to avoid gaps and duplication in the support of the operation and that the assistance delivered is timely and effective.

Various meetings were held between VNRC, IFRC and partner national societies to discuss moving toward a single VNRC operation during this period. While taking this new approach is a challenge as VNRC is not familiar with playing a lead role and faces a shortage of technical depth. Also, while standard guidelines for relief distribution are not yet in place, all partners have reached a consensus on the following after extensive discussions among all parties concerned:

See [annex 1](#) and [annex 2](#) for overall VNRC plan of action for Mekong Floods.

To date, partner support has been received from American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross/Australian government, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross /Canadian government, Japanese Red Cross Society, Monaco Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross/Netherlands Red Cross Silent Emergency Fund, Singapore Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross /Swedish government, and Swiss Red Cross. Contributions have also been received from the Coca-Cola Foundation and VERF/WHO Voluntary Emergency Relief.

On behalf of VNRC, IFRC would like to thank all partners/donors for their generous and invaluable contributions to this appeal.

[<click here for contact details>](#)

The situation

Between late September and early December 2011, the Mekong Delta region of Viet Nam experienced its worst flooding in 11 years, affecting at least 153,631 families (over 600,000 people) in the provinces of An Giang, Dong Thap, Long An, Can Tho, Vinh Long, Hau Giang and Kien Giang. Unlike the floods Viet Nam faces every year, these floods have been slow onset, with water covering large areas, paralysing the everyday life of affected communities and threatening their livelihoods. The worst-affected provinces are An Giang, Dong Thap and Long An.

According to the last update (see table 1 below) on damages by the central committee for flood and storm control (CCFSC), the number of deaths stood at 85 of whom 72 were children. Up to 12,864 families were evacuated due to flooding and landslides. Damage to property and livelihood was widespread as as much as 11,768 acres of rice paddies were lost.



Broken defences: 400 hectares of rice paddies remain inundated in this village in Tan Hung district, Dong Thap province. Inhabitants are unable to begin cultivation for the Spring crop, severely impacting future livelihood. (Photo: DWF)

Damage to property and livelihood was widespread as as much as

In December, some farmers started new plantation for the spring crop; however, many other villagers are still suffering from consequences of the flooding. For example, paddy fields of the 400 households in the Tan Thy village (Tan Thanh A commune, Tan Hung district) in Dong Thap remain under water due to dyke breach (see *photo above*). These families are also facing a shortage of rice. Similarly in Tan Lap commune (Moc Hoa district) in Long An province, floodwater was still stagnant in paddy fields in December. Seed cultivation for spring has been delayed one-and-a-half months in comparison to other years. This lateness will also affect the summer crop in May according to the local people committees. This does not only affect those who have land, but also landless villagers who earn their living by supplying labour; however, presently the demand for casual labour is scarce.

In three provinces of An Giang, Dong Thap and Can Tho, many families whose homes have completely collapsed have been living in temporary shelters nearby their destroyed houses, while others continue to live in temporary structures in poor conditions. Local authorities have identified the need to rebuild these temporary bamboo houses, even if not completely damaged, so as to help the local people cope better with future floods.

Table 1 – Damage statistics as of 10 November 2011 (Source: CCFSC)

Provinces	Deaths		Evacuation	Damage to houses			Agricultural losses	
	Total	Under 16 yrs of age	No. of families evacuated (due to floods and landslides)	Destroyed	Lost their roofs/severely damaged	Flooded	Rice and secondary crops (hectares)	Fish/shrimp cages (units)
An Giang	23	19	1,889	52	1,379	19,487	5,890	1,149
Dong Thap	21	20	3,596	156	352	31,324	2,081	0
Can Tho	10	9	0	13	34	27,826	201	11
Long An	13	12	6,297	169	170	29,356	1,743	9,841
Vinh Long	0	0	0	0	0	24,475	122	3,994
Hau Giang	0	0	0	0	0	5,391	545	0
Kien Giang	12	10	1,082	67	183	8,487	970	0
Tien Giang	6	2	0	0	0	0	216	0
TOTAL	85	72	12,864	457	2,118	153,631	11,768	14,995

In December, there was a slow decline in new infections of hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) country-wide; however, new infections are still reported at about 2,300 cases per week. Monthly, new infections in Dongthap, An Giang and Long An remain high, from 300-500 new cases/month/province, with two deaths on 2-3 December in Cao Lanh and Tan Hong districts.

Locations	Infections (recorded up to end Dec 2011)	Deaths (recorded up to end Dec 2011)
Dong Thap	6,700	10
An Giang	2,504	6
Long An	2,945	10

Dengue fever infection has slowed down in the Mekong as raining season was coming to an end. In Dec, countrywide, there were 323 new cases of dengue fever with no death, reduced two third compared to last year's December. By end of Dec, total country infection is 65,500, including 56 deaths. There is no dengue fever outbreak reported in the Mekong during Dec.

Coordination and partnerships

Facilitation of coordination in response to this disaster continues among VNRC, IFRC and partner national societies in-country including French Red Cross, German Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross. As part of follow-up to the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partnership meeting held in September 2011, the programme-based

approach in this year's flood operation is a primary focus. This is a vital coordination mechanism involving the use of a common plan of action developed by VNRC together with its partners for each area of relief that VNRC provides to beneficiaries. This approach will ensure that activities complement each other better to avoid gaps and duplication in the support of the operation and that the assistance delivered is timely and effective.

Various meetings were held between VNRC, IFRC and partner national societies to discuss moving toward a single VNRC operation during this period. While taking this new approach is a challenge as VNRC is not accustomed to playing this lead role, faces a shortage of technical depth, and currently lacking a standard guideline for relief distribution, all partners have reached a consensus on the following after extensive discussions among all parties concerned:

- Use the programme-based approach.
- Common templates.
- Common criteria for selection of beneficiaries.
- Common guidelines for relief distribution.
- A common training format and content.
- One training session on project and financial management for the three provinces.
- Standard training for Red Cross commune, volunteers and leaders of people's committees at the commune level held for each target district. All target communes receive support from various sources such as the IFRC emergency appeal, German Red Cross, and DG ECHO (through French Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross).
- One village meeting to identify a common list of beneficiaries for different sources of support
- One communication programme.
- Monthly coordination at province level.

The disaster management working group (DMWG) is the platform by which VNRC, IFRC and partner national societies have been coordinating response actions together with the People's Aid Co-ordinating Committee (PACCOM)¹, UN agencies, and international NGOs. In addition, as member of the CCFSC meetings, VNRC also has been coordinating its efforts with the government at various levels.

National society capacity building

VNRC has evolved and learnt lessons from previous operations to strengthen its disaster preparedness capacities. Recommendations from evaluations of previous operations (including the Typhoon Ketsana operation in 2009-2010) have been taken into account by the national society to improve the quality of its disaster preparedness and response system.

With support from IFRC and partner national societies such as Spanish Red Cross, disaster response mechanisms were developed for the coming typhoon season. First of all, a standard operating procedure (SOP) for disaster response has been developed by VNRC to ensure a systematic and coordinated approach in times of emergency. Moreover, to ensure needs assessment is being carried out in a timely and effective manner right after a disaster, a national disaster response team (NDRT) has been established, including 32 staff from VNRC headquarters and 11 Red Cross chapters located in disaster-prone provinces, as well as procedures related to the deployment of the NDRT.

In June 2011, training which focused on needs assessment, plans of action, monitoring and reporting, was organized for the NDRT members in view of the typhoon season.

As part of the latest flood operation, VNRC was provided with two water treatment units along with other required water and sanitation items. Up to 41 VNRC staff from headquarters, chapter, district and commune levels in seven central disaster-prone provinces, were trained on water and sanitation in emergencies.

Logistics activities were also carried out by VNRC with support from IFRC in rearranging its stock of relief items in its warehouse in Hanoi and in taking steps to be followed for better warehouse management in coordination with other VNRC relevant departments before the typhoon season.

At both national and local level, VNRC has shown strong capacity in assessing and responding to the situation. Its NDRT was deployed to An Giang, Dong Thap and Long An – the three most affected provinces – from 4 to 8 October, when floods were reported as worsening.

¹ PACCOM coordinates foreign NGO activities in Viet Nam

Currently, to run one operation, VNRC headquarters has deployed three NDRTs in the Mekong Delta region to add surge capacity for the headquarters disaster management department in terms of capacity building for local Red Cross staff and monitoring.

Training to enhance the capacity of VNRC at chapter and branch level in project and financial management, was carried out on 23 and 24 December 2011. Following this training, VNRC staff and volunteers as well as people's committee leaders from the selected communes received additional training on selection of beneficiaries and distribution from 28 to 30 December. These training sessions are highly important as people's committees must provide support to VNRC at the commune level to implement such activities. A format and content regarding this training was agreed upon by VNRC, IFRC and partner national societies involved in this operation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

As mentioned in the emergency appeal, and as a consequence of a thorough needs assessment, VNRC assistance focuses on delivering relief and recovery assistance to 10,000 of the most affected households from An Giang, Dong Thap and Long An provinces with non-food relief items, water and sanitation, hygiene promotion, emergency health measures, shelter and livelihoods. VNRC disaster preparedness capacities will also be reinforced in the most affected provinces.

Since the beginning of the relief phase, progress has been gradual but consistent. The distribution of household kits to 1,500 families was made by 11 November according to the initial planning. This very timely and effective distribution was possible thanks to VNRC disaster preparedness stock in Hanoi, part of which had been sent to the Mekong delta at the earliest stage of the emergency.

The rest of the relief distribution (except for Long An province) has been postponed until after the Vietnamese new year (Tet festival), for several reasons:

First of all, items such as tarpaulin and water storage containers were not available in the VNRC relief item stock; therefore, these have to be procured locally following strict international standards. Such procurement is currently ongoing.

More importantly, the three VNRC chapters in charge of the distributions are not as experienced as the chapters located in the central part of the country which usually face floods and carry out disaster response operations every year. As a consequence, those three chapters need additional support in terms of planning, selection of beneficiaries, distribution of relief items and monitoring.

Moreover, these chapters are currently overloaded with the organization of the "Tet for the poor", a major social activity taking place in January every year.

Nevertheless, essential activities are ongoing (mid-December to mid-January) to make sure the distributions are carried out in a coordinated and effective manner. First of all, VNRC staff from headquarters and chapters together with IFRC and partner national societies concerned have carried out a joint assessment from 11 to 17 December in order to select the most affected communes to receive distributions and also to readjust the plan of action if needed. Then, as explained



A young beneficiary collecting a household set, distributed in November. Photo: Viet Nam Red Cross.

under *capacity building*, VNRC personnel at chapter and branch level will be trained in project and finance management, selection of beneficiaries and distribution of relief items.

Apart from the relief distribution component, significant progress has been made regarding water, sanitation and hygiene promotion as well as emergency health components.

A prompt response in terms of clean water distribution was possible thanks to the remarkable disaster preparedness action carried out in 2010. VNRC staff and volunteers on the ground have also been trained to deliver messages to the people affected about good practices regarding household water treatment and hygiene promotion.

As for the emergency health component, VNRC staff and volunteers have also been trained to deliver prevention messages to the communities about emerging diseases. While *water and sanitation in emergencies* training is provided for key disaster management and healthcare teams at district and provincial level, the training on dengue fever and hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) prevention has used existing specialist trainers from other provinces where the HFMD operation being implemented. The trained volunteers for both water and sanitation, HFMD and dengue fever are, however, the same people. Information, education and communication (IEC) material has also been developed and the awareness campaign, to run from 29 December to 15 January.

The recovery programmes such as livelihood and shelter are currently in the assessment phase. Further information regarding the needs of the affected population in these sectors will be provided in the next operation update.

Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions (cash, household kits and tarpaulins)

Outcome: The immediate humanitarian needs of 3,000 families in An Giang, Dong Thap and Long An are met through VNRC relief distributions.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Cash, essential relief items and emergency shelter needs are distributed by VNRC to 3,000 of the most affected households.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize transport and distribution of 1,500 household kits to the local chapters. • Conduct on-the-ground assessments, selection and verification of 3,000 families (1,500 for cash and 1,500 for household kits and tarpaulins). • Locally procure household kits and tarpaulin items in line with the agreed procurement standards and quality control. • Distribute unconditional cash grants (CHF 22/household) to 1,500 of the most affected families to help them meet the most basic needs (e.g. food and essential items) and ensure no forced redistribution is made. • Distribute household kits and temporary shelter materials (tarpaulins), and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end-user. • Monitor and evaluate relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions

The distribution of 1,500 household kits² to the same number of affected households was completed in 12 communes as listed below:

² Each household kit contained two blankets, one mosquito net, one cooking pot, one pan, one kettle, one water bucket and two water containers (40 litres and 10 litres).

Table One: Distribution of household kits

District	Commune	Date	# of HH Kits (1 per family)			# of Beneficiaries		
			Families led by men	Families led by women	Total families	Men	Women	Total
An Giang province								
An Phu	Khanh An	11-Nov-11	95	55	150	271	288	559
	Nhon Hoi	11-Nov-11	102	48	150	263	307	570
Tan Chau	Vinh Xuong	11-Nov-11	95	35	130	255	271	526
	Chau Phong	11-Nov-11	51	19	70	146	126	272
Subtotal: An Giang			343	157	500	935	992	1,927
Dong Thap province								
Hong Ngu	Thuong Thoi Hau A	10-Nov-11	74	26	100	177	192	369
	Thuong Thoi Hau B	11-Nov-11	99	51	150	295	302	597
Tan Hong	Tan Phuoc	08-Nov-11	92	58	150	273	343	616
	Binh Phu	09-Nov-11	73	27	100	186	193	379
Subtotal: Dong Thap			338	162	500	931	1,030	1,961
Long An province								
Tan Thanh	Nhon Hoa Lap	11-Nov-11	68	57	125	328	291	619
	Hau Thanh Tay	11-Nov-11	83	42	125	222	254	476
Thanh Hoa	Thuan Nghia Hoa	11-Nov-11	62	63	125	184	255	439
	Thanh Phuoc	11-Nov-11	70	55	125	240	280	520
Subtotal: Long An			283	217	500	974	1,080	2,054
Total			964	536	1,500	2,840	3,102	5,942

Prior to the distribution of household kits, capacities of VNRC staff and volunteers from the three provinces have been improved thanks to training to provide them with relevant knowledge and skills on relief distribution, with a specific focus on needs assessment, selection of beneficiaries (VNRC guidelines on selection of beneficiaries) and organization of distributions. The training also had a component to familiarize staff and volunteers with planning, monitoring and reporting tools.

These training sessions have been very useful and much appreciated as it has been ten years since VNRC chapters in this region had implemented a disaster response operation. In total, 27 staff from Red Cross chapters and branches, districts and communes levels benefited from this training.

For the reasons mentioned previously, distribution of cash and tarpaulins will start immediately after the Vietnamese New Year, in early February 2012. Essential activities were ongoing (mid-December 2011 to mid-January 2012) to make sure the distributions are carried out in a coordinated and effective manner. First of all, VNRC staff from headquarters and chapters together with IFRC and partner national societies concerned carried out a joint assessment from 11 to 17 December in order to select the most affected communes to receive distributions and also to readjust the plan of action, if needed. Then, as explained in the capacity

building section, VNRC personnel at chapter and branch level were trained in project and finance management, selection of beneficiaries and distribution of relief items from 23 to 29 December. Leaders and personnel from the commune people's committee also attended training on selection of beneficiaries and distributions as they have a crucial role in facilitating these activities in the villages. Experience has shown that such advocacy was crucial in Viet Nam in order to benefit from the support from local authorities.



The procurement of tarpaulins as well as water containers (see water, sanitation and hygiene promotion) is ongoing and handled by the VNRC procurement working group comprising staff from relevant departments, and applying procedures complying with international standards with technical support from IFRC.

Tan Hong district, Dong Thap province: This family of four has squeezed into a temporary home measuring eight square metres since their house collapsed in October 2011. (Photo: DWF)

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of water and sanitation-related diseases are reduced through the provision of safe water and hygiene promotion up to 1,700 households in the flood-affected provinces of An Giang, Dong Thap and Long An.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Provision of safe water, water storage containers and hygiene promotion to 1,700 households in the flood-affected provinces of An Giang, Dong Thap and Long An.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the existing situation of drinking water coverage with a view of ensuring availability of an adequate water supply, and plan for provision of safe water and hygiene promotion. • Coordinate with local authorities and select the beneficiaries. • Improve capacity of VNRC in water and sanitation/hygiene promotion response in emergency through deployment of NDRT specializing in water and sanitation to train key responders and operate the water treatment unit. • Organize training on managing the water treatment units for key responders in affected provinces. • Select and train staff and volunteers (180) in household water treatment (aquatabs) and hygiene promotion. • Distribute water storage containers and training on household water treatment for 1,700 households (5,040 beneficiaries) • Distribute the household water treatment manual and other information, education and communication (IEC) material in Vietnamese. • Provide safe water to 500 households (2,100 beneficiaries) by using water treatment units. • Conduct monitoring for quality control and evaluate for effectiveness.

The provision of clean water thanks to VNRC water treatment unit has been completed in a timely manner. Up to 800 households in four affected remote communes in Tan Chau district (An Giang province) received clean water from 24 to 28 October. The VNRC NDRT water and sanitation team along with local volunteers installed and operated the water treatment unit after the assessment in the two affected districts of Tan Chau and An Phu. This immediate response from VNRC was possible thanks to preparedness activities conducted before the typhoon season. With the support from IFRC, French Red Cross and German Red Cross, intensive training on water and sanitation in emergencies was provided to VNRC personnel in seven disaster-prone

provinces in the central part of Viet Nam who have been deployed for this operation. In addition, two water treatment units were pre-positioned in strategic areas as part of the 2010 flood emergency appeal.

To build local Red Cross staff capacities in the Mekong delta, on 21-23 October, training on water and sanitation in emergency was provided to 18 staff in the three affected provinces. These staff were trained on household water treatment, hygiene promotion and water treatment unit installation and operation to immediately respond to water and sanitation needs. Following the training, six participants practiced their knowledge in the deployment of water treatment units, and working along with one team leader who is part of the NDRT specializing in water and sanitation.

Awareness activities on emerging and water-borne diseases as well as distribution of water containers tanks are being planned to carry out in parallel with distribution of water storage in January and February 2012. See [annex 1](#) for overall plan of action and distribution timeframe.

By mid-November, 180 volunteers from selected 18 communes were selected for both water and sanitation, and health education. From 24 to 30 November, training for volunteers were implemented in three provinces to equip them with knowledge of and communication skills in *water and sanitation in emergencies*, in addition to epidemic prevention. In addition, 10,000 copies of small-size posters with messages on household water treatment and prevention of water-borne disease were printed for distribution to beneficiaries in the next step of the endeavour. The selected volunteers will deliver education messages at household level in the affected villages on water-borne diseases, hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) and dengue fever (*see emergency health for further details of volunteer training*).

Livelihood support	
Outcome: By the end of October 2012, 1,500 affected households from An Giang, Dong Thap and Long An provinces who have lost their means of income, have restored a viable and sustainable source of income.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
1,500 households are provided with conditional cash grants for boats and fishing nets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VNRC conducts a deeper livelihood needs assessment and local market analysis • Briefing of VNRC volunteers, staff and branches on beneficiary and village selection criteria • Identification of villages for VNRC assistance • Beneficiary selection process • Public notification of assistance to beneficiaries • Support of 1,500 households in re-establishing a source of livelihood through conditional cash grants to procure boats and fishing nets • Branch development with specific focus on monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Findings from the joint assessment show that intervention under this component is best carried out in May or June before the next flood season. Modes of distribution will be tabled at a later stage.

Shelter

Outcome: By the end of October 2012, 200 households from An Giang, Dong Thap and Long An provinces have their houses rebuilt following storm-/flood-resistant standards and equipped with water and sanitation facilities.

Output (expected result)	Activities planned
<p>200 households are provided with conditional cash grants to rebuild storm/flood resistant houses equipped with water and sanitation facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • Shelter needs assessments • Consultancy with a local partner to provide technical assistance to VNRC • Briefing of VNRC volunteers, staff and branches on beneficiary and village selection criteria. • Identification of villages for VNRC assistance • Beneficiary selection process. • Public notification of assistance to beneficiaries. • Field surveys to assess beneficiary needs and local conditions for construction • Preparation of house designs in line with Vietnamese national and local government standards • Training for local builders, VNRC staff and beneficiaries on safe housing construction techniques • Release of first payment of the conditional cash to the identified beneficiaries. • Construction of new houses • Release of final cash grant payment to the beneficiaries for the houses • Branch development with specific focus on training, technical monitoring and reporting. • Internal review and external evaluation of the shelter project

The needs assessment has been carried out from 11 to 17 December in the provinces of An Giang, Dong Thap and Long An by a team composed of VNRC, IFRC and an external technical consultant (DWF) to have a clearer idea of the needs on the ground and start working on the programme design and planning. Unlike people in the central area, villagers in the Mekong Delta river live mostly along the river banks and many have no legal land use rights. The situation is different in the three provinces according to level of damage, capacity of families and also practices for construction. IFRC, VNRC and DWF will work on details for development of criteria for selection of beneficiaries.

VNRC and IFRC had previously contracted DWF to provide specific technical support during the recovery phase of the Typhoon Ketsana operation in 2010. Their involvement focused mainly on technical aspects such as developing storm/flood resistant house designs, providing training on safe housing techniques and supporting VNRC in the monitoring of the construction of houses. This external support proved to be particularly [successful](#).

Based on lessons learned from the Ketsana operation, VNRC and IFRC have decided to focus on capacity building for VNRC staff at province and district levels, thus ensuring the national society ownership of the process and its sustainability.

This programme will move forward with the arrival of a shelter delegate in February 2012.



Moc Hoa district, Long An province: Houses like these are common across the Mekong region in south Viet Nam. During the floods, inhabitants raise their homes to save them from being swept away by floodwaters. (Photo: DWF)

Emergency health (disease prevention and health promotion)	
Outcome: By the end of January 2012, immediate health risks of 10,000 families in three flood-affected provinces are reduced.	
Output (expected result)	Activities planned
Targeted disease prevention and health promotion activities are conducted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refresh/update VNRC trainers and 180 community volunteers on disease prevention and epidemic control • Reproduce and distribute information, education and communication (IEC) materials (such as leaflets, handbook for volunteers, posters). • Mobilize volunteers to conduct house-to-house and community-level disease prevention and health promotion campaigns • Mobilize communities to conduct hand-washing, cleaning and other campaigns to prevent the occurrence of infectious diseases • Coordinate with local health authorities to ensure appropriate and effective response. • Monitor and review health activities

The emergency health component has been designed to respond to diseases which pose an increasing threat to the population due to stagnant floodwaters – in addition to water and sanitation related diseases addressed by VNRC hygiene promoters, the affected provinces also faced increasing cases of dengue fever and HFMD³.

Disease prevention campaigns – through house-to-house visits and community activities alongside hygiene promotion activities – to help community members increase awareness and adopt behaviours to prevent disease transmission were particularly efficient thanks to VNRC’s well-established network of volunteers at all levels. Using the pool of trained instructors in health and water and sanitation, VNRC mobilized NDRT members who specialized in water and sanitation in emergencies, and updated them on dengue fever and HFMD prevention as well. These specialists then trained community volunteers. Subsequently, on 24-30 November, 180 volunteers in 18 communes from An Giang, Dong Thap and Long An underwent a three-day training in knowledge and communication skills which focused on dengue fever and HFMD. As an addition to skill-building for volunteers, training was inclusive of a practical session on the use of IEC tools for house-to-house education.

³ Since August 2011, VNRC with support from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) has been conducting prevention and control activities in support to the national HFMD response. Volunteer trained and materials developed through this operation were tapped for this emergency operation. The volunteer training and IEC materials were adaptations from the IFRC Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV) toolkit, among others.

On 6 December, IEC materials on dengue fever and HFMD prevention were delivered to the affected provinces; see *table below*. From 20 December 2011 to 15 January 2012, the trained volunteers will carry out house-to-house and community campaigns to reach 10,000 families in affected areas.

Table of printed IEC materials

Dengue fever		Hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD)	
Type of materials	Quantity (pcs)	Type of materials	Quantity (pcs)
Flipcharts for volunteers	200	Flipchart for volunteers	200
Handbook for volunteers	200	Handbook for volunteers	200
Leaflets	10,000	Leaflet	10,000
		Poster	1,500

Disaster preparedness

Outcome: VNRC chapters and branches from An Giang, Dong Thap, Long An, Can Tho, Vinh Long, Hau Giang and Kien Giang provinces have increased their respective capacities to respond to disasters.

Output (expected result)	Activities planned
Twenty-one motor boats, 42 disaster response packages and disaster response training are provided to VNRC for future emergency interventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize training on disaster response (including revised Sphere standards) at district and commune level. Procure and distribute 42 disaster response packages (including life-jackets, loud speakers, plastic sheeting, first aid kits, etc.) for 21 VNRC district branches (covering 42 communes). Procure and distribute motor boats to VNRC provincial chapters and district branches for rapid intervention in case of disaster.

Building capacities in disaster preparedness for response and first aid for VNRC staff and volunteers at province, district and commune levels has been identified as a top priority by the three VNRC provincial chapters most affected by the flood. “To ensure sustainability in skill and knowledge in disaster preparedness for response and first aid, it is necessary to organize the training of trainers (ToT) to selected Red Cross staff and community people, so that they can further deliver training in case of turnover of volunteers” says a disaster management staff member of the An Giang Red Cross chapter. It is understandable as there has been insufficient investment in this sector since the last relief operation implemented in 2001.

Activities under this component will be planned together with the three VNRC chapters concerned after the relief distribution.

Communications – advocacy and public information

With technical support from the IFRC’s zone and regional communication units in Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok respectively, communication material related to the VNRC preparedness and response activities [has been shared](#) since the early days of the flood, showing significant progress in raising the national society’s profile before, during and after a disaster.

Communication initiatives under this operation will be developed alongside capacity building activities to reinforce the new VNRC communications team. This programme-based operation will also provide the VNRC communication department with an opportunity to coordinate all communication activities related to the operation. Given limitations in VNRC communication capacity, the IFRC country office has sought support from zone and regional offices to provide appropriate technical support to VNRC to ensure such coordination. With suggestions from the IFRC communication teams, VNRC communication staff are developing a communication plan for this operation.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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 - Please send all pledges of funding to zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org

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1. **Financial report below**
 2. **Click here to return to the title page**
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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.



IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRVN009 - Vietnam - Mekong Delta Floods

Interim Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/10-2011/12
Budget Timeframe	2011/10-2012/10
Appeal	MDRVN009
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	1,107,186					1,107,186
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
Cash contributions						
<i>American Red Cross</i>	45,863					45,863
<i>Australian Red Cross (from Australian Government)</i>	471,277					471,277
<i>British Red Cross</i>	69,965					69,965
<i>Japanese Red Cross Society</i>	36,500					36,500
<i>Norwegian Red Cross</i>	54,599					54,599
<i>Red Cross of Monaco</i>	6,187					6,187
<i>Singapore Red Cross Society</i>	69,183					69,183
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>	7,003					7,003
<i>Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)</i>	133,050					133,050
<i>Swiss Red Cross</i>	48,500					48,500
<i>The Canadian Red Cross Society (from Canadian Government)</i>	66,523					66,523
<i>The Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Red Cross Silent Emergency Fund)</i>	24,710					24,710
<i>VERF/WHO Voluntary Emergency Relief</i>	300					300
C1. Cash contributions	1,033,658					1,033,658
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	1,033,658					1,033,658
D. Total Funding = B + C	1,033,658					1,033,658
Appeal Coverage	93%					93%

II. Balance of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	1,033,658					1,033,658
E. Expenditure	-159,188					-159,188
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	874,471					874,471

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRVN009 - Vietnam - Mekong Delta Floods

Interim Report

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Reporting Timeframe	2011/10-2011/12
Budget Timeframe	2011/10-2012/10
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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		1,107,186					1,107,186	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	43,500						43,500	
Construction - Housing	400,000						400,000	
Clothing & Textiles	15,000						15,000	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	42,100	1,605				1,605	40,495	
Utensils & Tools	38,000						38,000	
Other Supplies & Services	155,000						155,000	
Cash Disbursement	34,500						34,500	
Total Relief items, Construction, Suj	728,100	1,605				1,605	726,495	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	4,000						4,000	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	4,000						4,000	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	26,512	1,135				1,135	25,377	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	14,145	1,381				1,381	12,764	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	40,657	2,516				2,516	38,141	
Personnel								
International Staff	40,000	7,198				7,198	32,802	
National Staff	24,000	16,386				16,386	7,614	
National Society Staff	38,160	115				115	38,045	
Volunteers	4,860						4,860	
Total Personnel	107,020	23,699				23,699	83,321	
Consultants & Professional Fees								
Consultants	25,100						25,100	
Total Consultants & Professional Fe	25,100						25,100	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	56,974	15,531				15,531	41,443	
Total Workshops & Training	56,974	15,531				15,531	41,443	
General Expenditure								
Travel	4,500	3,629				3,629	871	
Information & Public Relations	18,528	10,199				10,199	8,329	
Office Costs	10,608	-294				-294	10,902	
Communications	10,200	764				764	9,436	
Financial Charges	5,820	-5,005				-5,005	10,825	
Other General Expenses	28,104	1,954				1,954	26,150	
Total General Expenditure	77,760	11,247				11,247	66,513	
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		94,687				94,687	-94,687	
Total Operational Provisions		94,687				94,687	-94,687	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	67,575	9,703				9,703	57,871	
Total Indirect Costs	67,575	9,703				9,703	57,871	
Pledge Specific Costs								
Pledge Reporting Fees		200				200	-200	
Total Pledge Specific Costs		200				200	-200	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	1,107,186	159,188				159,188	947,998	
VARIANCE (C - D)		947,998				947,998		

Annex 2: Plan of Action, Mekong Floods, Viet Nam Red Cross: Summary

Province	District	Cash			HH kits			Water and sanitation								Houses			Livelihood			
		VNRC HQ	IFRC	PNS/ECHO	VNRC HQ	IFRC	PNS/ECHO	VNRC HQ	PNS/ECHO	IFRC	German RC	German RC	German RC	ECHO/PNS	German RC	IFRC	IFRC	German RC	IFRC	PNS/ECHO	German RC	German RC
		Emergency	Unconditional	Food	Kits	Kits	Kits	Aqua tabs (tablets)	Aqua tabs (tablets)	Water containers (300L)	Water containers (300L)	Water containers (500L)	Water filters and two cartridges	Water filters	Water tanks	Tarpaulin (4x10)	Rebuilding houses	House repair kits	Fishing net and boats	Fishing net and boats	Fishing net and boats	Seed and fertilizer
An Giang	An Phu	0	0	184	0	300	217	0	18,400	0	0	0	0	207	0	0	0	0	76	0	0	
	Tan Chau	0	150	1,099	0	200	969	0	109,900	100	20	10	150	1,009	0	300	0	0	294	50	39	
	Chau Phu	0	200	129	0	0	149	0	12,900	150	0	0	0	144	0	300	0	0	40	0	0	
	Cho Moi	0	250	617	0	0	737	0	61,700	250	20	70	1,045	678	0	0	58	0	190	132	310	
	Subtotal	0	600	2,029	0	500	2,072	0	202,900	500	40	80	1,195	2,038		600	0	58	0	600	182	349
Dong Thap	Tan Hong	0	250	167	0	250	38	0	17,600	200	0	0	0	167		250	0	0	58	0	0	
	Tam Nong	0	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	40	137	1,870	0		250	0	62	0	0	160	185
	Huyen Hong Ngu	0	0	345	0	250	345	0	34,500	0	70	70	850	345		0	0	45	0	108	50	220
	TX Hong Ngu	0	0	176	0	0	262	0	16,700	0	20	70	540	167		0	0	30	0	80	90	220
	Thanh Binh	0	0	286	0	0	286	0	28,600	0	130	143	845	286		0	0	105	0	86	118	151
	Subtotal	0	500	974	0	500	931	0	97,400	400	260	420	4,105	965		500	0	242	0	332	418	776
Long An	Thanh Hoa	0	0	0	0	250	0	0	0	0	500	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Tan Thach	0	0	0	0	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Tan Hung	0	200	447	0	0	447	0	44,700	0	0	0	0	447	0	400	0	0	0	134	0	0
	Duc Hue	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Subtotal	0	400	447	0	500	447	0	44,700	300	0	0	0	447	0	400	0	0	0	134	0	0
Total (families)		0	1,500	3,450	0	1,500	3,450	0	345,000	1,200	300	500	5,300	3,450	0	1,500	0	300	0	1,066	600	1,125

